



## **6 Best Practices for a Seamless Data Center Migration**

Data center migration is an intricate part of any organization that hopes to grow and serve a wider clientele base. As a business grows, it becomes obvious that its existing data solution can't meet its ever-expanding needs.

Whether it's to increase its capacity, unveil new features, or increase the organization's connectivity options, there's always a pressing reason that necessitates data center migration.

However, the process of relocating to a new IT environment can be daunting – and quite rightly so! Data Migration requires planning, experience and expert knowledge as you're not only dealing with packing and transportation for normal corporate moving, but you also need to ensure there's minimal downtimes and zero data loss.

Data center migration requires meticulous planning and monitoring to ensure a smooth transition. We dug deep to bring you 6 Best practices for seamless data center migration.

But first,

### **What is Data Center Migration?**

This is a logical and operational deployment and transfer of a data center to a new IT environment without data loss. Although it may seem pretty straightforward, data center migration is a complex and comprehensive process that involves systematic relocation of data, accompanying equipment and applications. Any mistake may cause a loss of data, costly downtimes or even equipment damage.

As with all things in life, careful planning is crucial in ensuring the transition is successful. Check out these 6 data center best practices:

### **Create a plan**

Having a clear plan is an essential ingredient to the success of almost anything in life. Same case with data center relocation. Creating a project management plan will ensure all factors and risks are taken into account during the process. It's important to appoint a project manager to oversee the entire project and to lead the team involved to ensure the plan is executed efficiently.

Additionally, an organization can also hire a data center migration consultant to ensure all critical aspects of the relocation are considered. Hiring a consultant may seem expensive but dealing with a failed migration costs a whole lot more.

## Take asset and application inventory

All equipment, however small and insignificant, should be well documented and accounted for in an orderly way. Everything including servers, cables, fuses and power supplies should be marked clearly to ensure there's no mix up in the new data infrastructure. In addition to all the hardware, you also need to take stock of all software licenses, operating systems and applications.

With an inventory in place, it becomes easier to create a migration strategy in place taking into account all your assets, the sequence of migration and lastly a transport manager in-charge of ensuring safe transportation of all equipment.

## Assign equipment de-install and transport roles

Transporting data and networking equipment is a sensitive operation and it goes beyond just loading a server in a truck and transporting it to the new location. This is because improper de-install and transportation could result in extensive damage by physical abuse and electric discharge. While an organization may have the capacity to de-install and transport the hardware, it's wiser to contract an external team, highly specialized in hardware transport to handle this entire docket.

The contracted company will dismantle, transport and install the hardware in the new location. This makes the process a whole lot easier and streamlined with clear accountability if anything goes wrong.

## Verify equipment needs at new site

It's crucial to understand the equipment needs at the provider's infrastructure to ensure synergy and a smooth physical transition. The team involved with the migration need to ensure that all the configurations and settings are well aligned with the destination data center. Any additional components that may need to be deployed at the new location to warrant a successful installation need to be secured early enough even before the transportation of the equipment.

Any mismatch or lacking components may cause massive headaches when trying to get the systems online which may lead to costly downtimes and in some cases, data loss.

## Avoid making assumptions

Data center migration is a huge shift for any organization and it sometimes involves delicate and sensitive processes which, in case of any mistakes, may cripple an organization's IT operations. From miscommunication, to damaged equipment, making assumptions on data center migration processes poses a huge risk to the whole relocation project. To prevent this, the teams involved should confirm all details of the migration and identify any risks involved.

The functionality of all equipment should be tested before unplugging and once on site, all ports, configuration and components should be thoroughly tested before installation. A lot of time, money and energy is invested in data center migration and therefore one should not take any chances.

## Post-migration testing

Once the transportation and re-install of equipment at the new data center is completed, it's now time to test the functionality of the new IT environment. This mainly involves executing a post-migration checklist and testing all components involved including data, applications, network and hardware.

Additionally, ensure functional, performance and other types of tests are carried out depending on your organization's workload and capacity. It's also wise to establish processes to troubleshoot any equipment that may fail to function properly or integrate with the new network.

## Wrapping it up

Moving to a new data center environment is a complex and time consuming task, but it offers growth opportunities for any organization that undertakes it. The above best practices can be used as ingredients of an actionable plan to ensure a smooth transition.